

Claims:-

1. Sliding closing element for an intermediate distributor or similar metallurgical containers, the mobile sliding plate (3) of which can be driven by means of a drive comprising a driving rod (6) and a push rod (7) connected thereto, characterised in that the connection between the driving rod (6) and the push rod (7) is formed by a coupling (11) arranged between the opposite ends of the two rods with two coupling parts (12, 13) that engage each other without play.
2. Sliding closing element according to Claim 1, characterised in that the coupling (11) is formed by a coupling head (12) and a coupling claw (13) that is received into the same by means of form and force closure, i.e. without play, with a wedge shoe (21) spring tensioned transversely in relation to the driving direction of the driving rod (6) and supported against the wedge shoe (21) pressing against the coupling head (12).
3. Sliding closing element according to Claim 2, characterised in that the coupling head (12) consists of a component with a T-shaped cross-section that comprises a facing side engaging bridge (14) and an adjacent middle bridge (15).
4. Sliding closing element 2, characterised in that the coupling claw (13) consists of a component with a U-shaped cross-section comprising a facing wall (16), a rear wall (17), two side walls (18, 19) and a floor plate (20), whereby the facing wall (16) comprises a central receiving slot (24) for the middle bridge (15) of the coupling head (12), whilst the rear wall (17) and the floor plate (20) are equipped with support surfaces for the wedge shoe (21), i.e. for the springs (22a, 22b) tensioning the same.
5. Sliding closing element according to Claim 4, characterised in that the wedge shoe (21) is tensioned by means of at least one spring (22a, 22b) arranged along the longitudinal axis of the driving rod (6).
6. Sliding closing element according to Claim 4 or 5, characterised in that the wedge shoe (21) is connected with a set screw (25) inserted through the centre of the floor plate (20) of the coupling claw (13), which does not contact the floor plate (20)

during operation, so that the height of the wedge shoe (21) can be adjusted transversely in relation to the driving direction.

7. Sliding closing element according to Claim 6, characterised in that the wedge shoe (21) can be held in position by means of the set screw (25) during coupling until the specific coupling is complete, whereas the set screw (25) can be screwed in further during de-coupling, whereby the wedge shoe (21), and with it the coupling (11), can be disconnected.

8. Sliding closing element according to one of the Claims 2 to 7, characterised in that the abutting surfaces of the coupling head (12) and the coupling claw (13) are equipped with tapered edges (30, 31).

9. Sliding closing element according to Claim 8, characterised in that the coupling head (12) consists of an integrated part of the push rod (7).

10. Coupling for a sliding closing element according to one of the preceding Claims, characterised in that the same can be installed into the sliding closing element as a construction assembly consisting of the coupling claw (13) and the coupling head (12) with integrated push rod (7).